



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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Statement of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal for Teacher Appreciation Week 2011

Phoenix, AZ, May 2, 2011– Today, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal released the following statement for Teacher Appreciation Week 2011:

“Today, during Teacher Appreciation Week and in honor of Teacher Appreciation Day tomorrow, I ask everyone across Arizona to join me in expressing their deep appreciation for the invaluable roles that teachers play in shaping our children’s lives and their futures.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, ‘Genius without education is like silver in the mine,’ and within the school building, no one plays a more important role in a child’s educational career than the teacher. Every one of us can think back to that one special teacher who inspired us or challenged us to strive a little bit harder to be successful, who encouraged us to dream a little bit bigger.

Such a teacher changed my life.

I wasn’t planning on going to college. But my high school wrestling coach Jack Segerson saw in me potential that I was not able to see in myself. His encouragement and strong regard for higher education inspired me to go to college and attain a bachelor’s degree; and later, an MBA.

If it wasn’t for Jack Segerson, a teacher, I would have never truly realized the importance of a quality education. I would not be the Superintendent of Public Instruction today.

So on behalf of everyone at the Arizona Department of Education, I join with parents and students across Arizona in extending my sincere thanks for the important job over 60,000 teachers perform on a daily basis to educate Arizona’s children, and for their inspiring efforts to help our children realize the dream of a successful, enriching life.”

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